LPG Distributors in Ludhiana

590. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributors appointed in Ludhiana in Punjab as on the 31st January, 1997;

(b) the details of complaints received against the distributors during the last three years and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As on 31.1.1997, oil marketing companies have appointed 33 LPG distributors in Ludhiana City of Punjab.

(b) and (c) Complaints are received from time to time, against the LPG distributors for various malpractices/ irregularities like issue of unauthorised connections, unauthorised refill delivery, water-filled cylinder, delayed refill supply, non-home delivery. In established cases, penal action in line with Marketing Discipline Guidelines is taken against the erring distributors.

Joint Venture Oil Production from the Kharsang Oilfield

591. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item, which appeared in the Statesman dated the 24th January, 1997, regarding joint venture in the Kharsang oil field in Arunachal Pradesh, developed by OIL;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto, vis-a-vis oil production, before the joint venture and as on date, investment assured and actual investment by the private parties; and

(c) what is the experience of Enpro India and Geoenpro and whether they operate from the same office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The current production from Kharsang field is below the targets expected as per the Production Sharing Contract (PSC), mainly due to (i) delay in transfer of the operatorship of the field from OIL to Consortium by 8 months and (ii) delays in award of the service/ drilling contracts for working over the wells.

As per the current information, the Letter of Intent for the service and drilling contracts has been issued. This may result in meeting the production targets as stipulated in the PSC, in the near future along with the investment commitments. (c): M/s. Enpro India Ltd. is an Indian company with experience in oil and gas Industry and employs some skilled professionals. Geoenpro Petroleum Ltd., is a 50:50 percent Joint Venture between Enpro India Ltd. and Geopetrol International, a subsidiary of Holding company, the Geofinanciere Group, France. Geopetrol International has experience of operations of marginal and medium sized fields in several countries in Europe, South-America and Asia.

GeoEnpro and Enpro are operating from the same office in New Delhi to Minimise cost. The Project office of GeoEnpro is located in Kharsang, (Arunachal Pradesh).

Fiscal Incentives for Exploration of Oil and Gas

592. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group of the petroleum sector has recommended major fiscal incentives to secure participation by